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Cameron Morrison
By F.P.Graham

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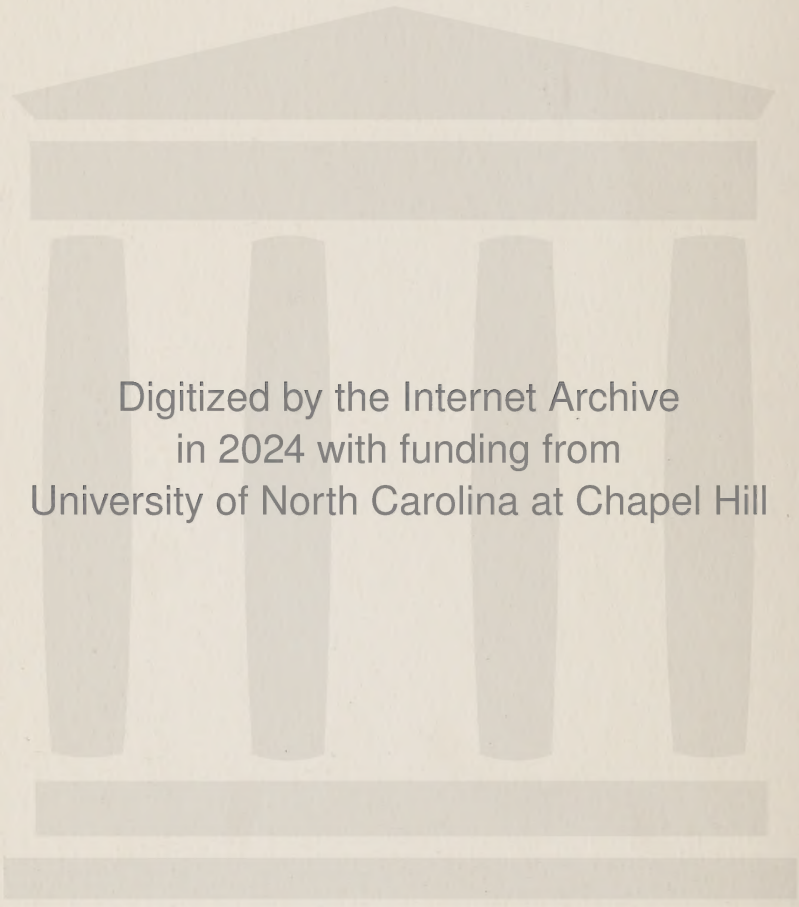
Cameron Morrison

An Address by

the Honorable

FRANK P. GRAHAM

[Charlotte, Privately Printed, 1956]



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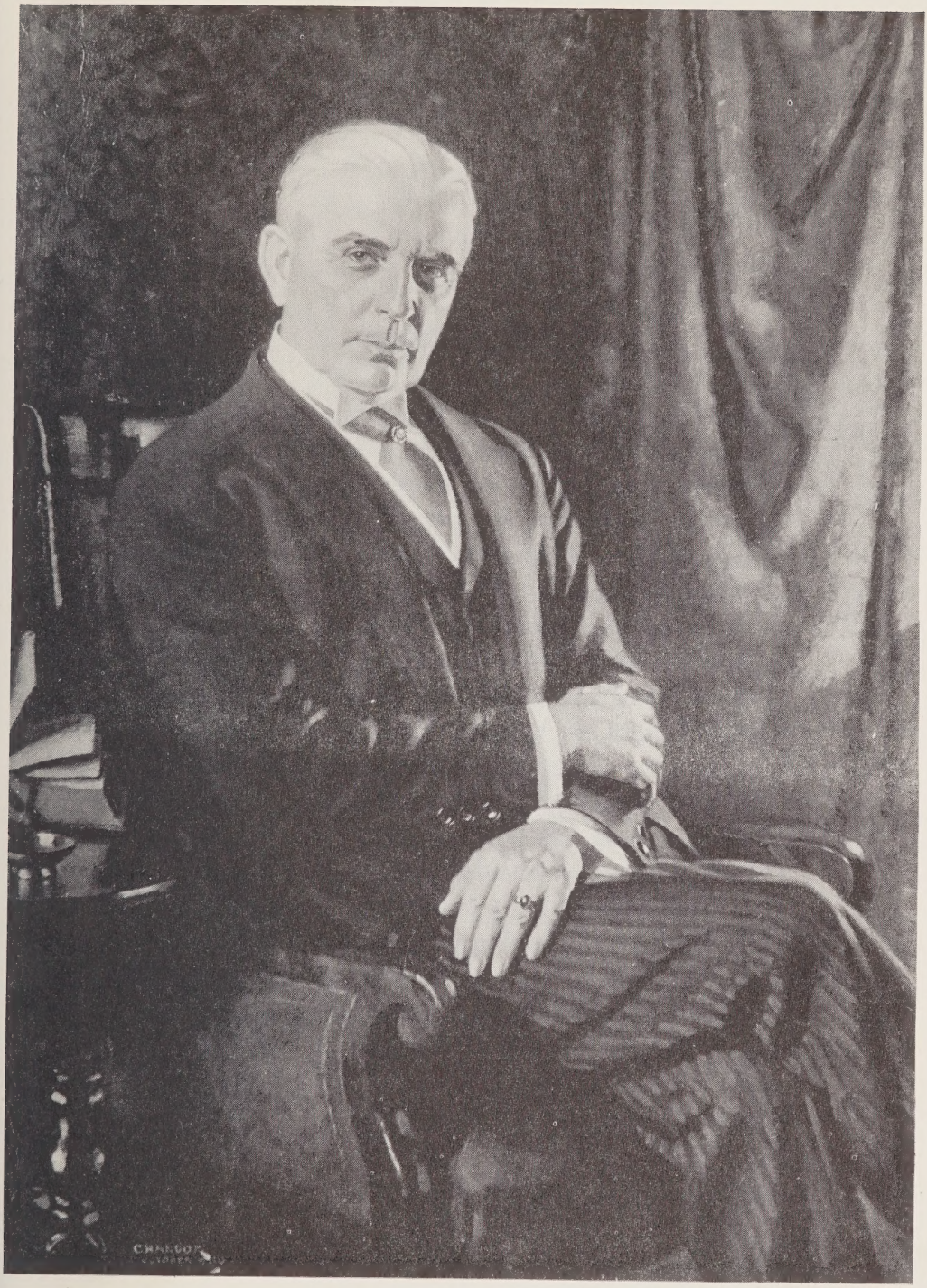

CAMERON MORRISON

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FOREWORD

The following address by the Honorable Frank Porter Graham was delivered at a joint session of the North Carolina General Assembly when a portrait of Former Governor Cameron Morrison was presented to the State of North Carolina on March Thirty-first, Nineteen Hundred Fifty-five. Governor Luther Hodges accepted the portrait for the state. Others present included members of the North Carolina Supreme Court, The Council of State, the members of the Morrison family and friends of the Governor. The President *pro-tem* of the Senate, Luther Barnhart and the Speaker of the House, Larry Moore were in the presiding chairs. Senator F. J. Blythe, Chairman of the Governor's Committee conducted the presentation exercises. Assisting Senator Blythe on the committee were Representative E. M. O'Herron, Jr., of Mecklenburg, Honorable Paul C. Whitlock, Judge Francis O. Clarkson and Frank P. Graham. The portrait was unveiled by Miss Sara Harris, granddaughter of Cameron Morrison.

P35239

Text of the acceptance speech delivered by LUTHER H. HODGES, Governor of North Carolina.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

RALEIGH

HER H. HODGES
GOVERNOR

March 31, 1955

MR. PRESIDENT, MR. SPEAKER, SENATOR BLYTHE,
FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF CAMERON MORRISON,
MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

Governor Cameron Morrison was a natural leader of men whose dynamic personality stirred our people greatly and incited them to move onward and upward on the high road of progress. He looms large in the story of North Carolina's achievement; his place in history is secure.

Between Cameron Morrison and the people of North Carolina, there was a strong bond of affection. He loved and trusted them and the people loved and trusted him. It is not always thus. We often have able leaders who do not possess that warm and lovable spirit that tends to identify them with the people whom they serve. Governor Morrison, however, occupied preferred position in the affectionate regard of North Carolinians. He was their faithful advocate; he was a great tribune of the people and he never raised his eloquent voice to speak that the good people of North Carolina did not listen and give heed. With that deep intuition with which the common people are blessed, they knew that he was their dependable friend.

He loved his State and he served it faithfully, dedicating himself to the ideals of its citizenship and its best traditions. His spontaneous geniality, his democratic spirit combined with an inherent aptitude for leadership enabled him to render invaluable and distinguished service for many years in the State and nation; and by his accomplishments and the example of his life he has left a rich heritage for the generations that are to come.

His term of office as Governor, 1921-1925, was outstandingly progressive. His road program which he originated and fostered took vision, courage, and skillful handling. He was a fighting Democrat and a gallant warrior. The State is greatly indebted to this great leader.

It is a real pleasure for me to accept this portrait on behalf of the State in the presence of this distinguished gathering. It is a happy circumstance that Mr. and Mrs. Harris and their children and so many friends of the Morrison family are here today to witness this fine occasion. This splendid portrait of a truly great man will assume an honored place in the growing pictorial record of distinguished North Carolinians.

I should like to express my personal appreciation and gratitude and that of the people of the State to those who have made it possible for us to receive as a gift this handsome portrait of Cameron Morrison, North Carolina's distinguished son and former Governor.

LHH:rd

Luther H. Hodges

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IN REPLY
PLEASE QUOTE NO.

19 May 1955

Dear Angelia and Jimmy,

Please pardon my delay in sending you a copy of my talk before the joint session of the General Assembly on the occasion of the presentation to the State of the portrait of your father. As you know, I made the talk from cards and have edited it with an addition of a few names and with one or two suggestions made by Marian.

This talk does not pretend to be a small summary biography or even an adequate general appreciation. It simply seeks to keep a promise to the Governor, made, as you recall, at his insistence in your presence, that I would some day make more clear with facts known to me that he was not only the leader of the good roads movement but also the leader of the youth movement which helped him against the odds of doubt, reaction and honest fears to lead North Carolina to higher ground over hard-surfaced roads and through the wider doors of the people's schools, university, colleges and humanitarian institutions.

It was one of the durable satisfactions of his stormy and useful life that he was rightly known as "the good roads Governor" but, as you know, he often said that an even greater joy to him was his rugged but victorious fight for better schools, more buildings and more adequate annual appropriations for his State university, colleges and humane institutions.

Thanks to someone for sending me Julian Scheer's article in The Charlotte News generously suggesting that the talk be published as a state paper for educational as well as for commemorative purposes. I understand that Jack Blythe and Bill Rodman plan to publish it in the Legislature's proceedings. Mr. John M. Morehead, III, sent his address on his grandfather to the high schools and public libraries of the State. His grandfather, John Motley Morehead, the First, was a great leader and builder, and forerunner of the great builders who came after him, one of the most effectively militant of whom was your own dear father.

It was a real joy to me on weekends and in the evenings to have prepared the talk based on recollections, old papers, letters and reminiscences of his friends and living colleagues. This has not been a chore but a nostalgic and an affectionate recreation and a commemoration both of a Governor for whom the people are deeply grateful and of a friend whom we love and treasure in loyalties and spirit everlasting.

When the invitation to make this talk came from you two and Jack Blythe, chairman of Governor Hodges' Committee, I felt it was a call from the living past and from an immortal world "from whose bourne no traveller returns" but from which voices come with the power of the leadership of the days that are gone, which we must follow to higher ground with old faith for new duties in the great days yet to come.

Please pardon my delay in sending you the copy. I have been in a score of states across the country speaking at meetings on the United Nations and am just now catching up in my personal correspondence on which, meantime, I am much behind.

With affectionate regards for both of you and all the family,

Sincerely yours,

Frank Graham

Mr. and Mrs. James J. Harris
Morrocroft
Sharon Road
Charlotte, North Carolina

INTRODUCTION

It is fitting in this age of mechanisms and cosmic forces that the people's Assembly should pause in the midst of affairs and pay its respect to two former Governors and recognize the meaning of an individual in the stream of life. The state is better for the contemplation of the life and high sense of public duty of the late lamented William B. Umstead, who risked his life in the high service of the state he served with "the last full measure of devotion."

It has been said by those who believe in the overriding power of dialectic materialism and economic determinism that an individual is not vital in the historic process and is not a spiritual, creative personality, sacred in his own worth as a child of God and brother of men. Rather in this mechanistic view, the individual is a creature of the time and place of his existence and the mere subject of the ongoing forces which determine the substance and trend of an age. Yet there is another higher, more personal and spiritual side of the shield of history.

It is good for the soul of a people and the spirit of an age to stop, see and feel in the life of Governor Morrison whom we commemorate today: above process, personality; underneath mechanism, idealism; and through the struggles of an individual, the leadership of the people toward a nobler commonwealth.

Lineage and Youth

For our State one of such leaders was Cameron Morrison, rough-hewn out of the rugged faith and life of North Carolina. He was born October 5, 1869, in Richmond County. His mother was Martha Cameron, whose mother was Caroline Crawford, both of colonial Scotch descent. His grandfather, John W. Cameron, was a graduate of the University of North Carolina, distinguished lawyer, editor of the Fayetteville Argus and State Senator. His paternal grandparents were both Morrisons but unrelated and came from Scotland on the same ship without the knowledge of the other. Cameron Morrison was four times a Scot in lineage, a Sandhiller in residence and a Presbyterian in religion. As Mr. Archibald Johnson observed, he was neither too stubborn nor narrow in his God fearing faith.

Young Cam worked on the farm, in a store, assisted his father in his mechanical chores and as postmaster for a time in Rockingham. He "grubbed his education," as he expressed it, in the few months the public schools were open in the country or in the town. He taught school for a while and attended a private school at Ellerbee Springs in preparation for college under N. C. McCaskill, who inspired in him a love of the poems of Robert Burns and the novels and poetry of Walter Scott, and other great books which became an enduring part of his life. But many children and few dollars in the large family meant he was not going to college but to work. His own inability to go to college, he once told me, later found compensation in his campaign to open wider the doors of the overcrowded University and colleges in North Carolina.

When not reading, clerking, plowing or in school, he was hunting, fishing, wrestling, sometimes fighting, but ever riding horseback up and down the countryside. He was tall, straight, sinewy in body with well proportioned head and handsome face, a challenging figure on horseback. He neither drank nor smoked but was fond of chewing tobacco. He admired both physical and moral courage and proudly said of his father, "He could stand flatfooted and knock down any man in the country." Once young Morrison had a bare-fisted fight with a strong opponent to the point of bloody exhaustion which put them both in bed without either the victory or the defeat which was usually to characterize the all-out political fighting life of Cameron Morrison.

He lost his devoted mother when he was eight years old and ever had a compassion for motherless and other under-privileged children and people, as witnessed by Mrs. Kate Burr Johnson whom he championed in her brave pioneer work for the social and humane well-being of the less fortunate people of North Carolina. He revered and loved his father, Dan Morrison, a Confederate veteran, who, though an original follower of Vance, became a Republican for a time, who took his son to the party convention in Raleigh. Soon thereafter the father followed the son into the Democratic Party. The son always defended the freedom of his father as a brave and honorable man. He denounced the dogma of guilt by accusation and association. His stand for the freedom of his father's honorable associations was made far ahead of these present times, when a most recent political exploitation of fear and suspicion threatened, for a while, to change the original faith of our nation in its historic liberties in the days of its infant weakness, into a great fear and reaction in the days of its world-wide responsibility and power.

Lawyer in Rockingham and Charlotte

Not to college he went but to study in the famous law office of Judge Robert P. Dick of the distinguished Greensboro bar. Licensed to practice law in 1893 at the age of 22, he developed in general practice with such able lawyers in Rockingham as John D. Shaw, J. T. LeGrand, Franklin McNeill and Walter Neal, and then moved on to be a vigorous and successful contender at the eminent bar of Charlotte. His first cousin, law partner and life-long adviser, Paul Cameron Whitlock, and Henry C. Dockery, another able law partner, followed him to Charlotte, already made famous by such legal luminaries as Burwell, Walker and Cansler, Col. H. C. Jones, Tillett and Guthrie, Wilson, Maxwell and Keerans, Pharr and Bell, W. B. Rodman, Duls and Clarkson, F. I. Osborne, J. D. McCall, T. L. Kirkpatrick, McNinch, Shannonhouse, Smith, Flowers, Jones, Adams, Redd, Preston, Vreeland, and such younger contenders coming along as the Robinson brothers and Stewart and McRae, later to be joined by John J. Parker and others who have since risen to leadership at the Charlotte bar.

As a youth in Charlotte, I remember, there came from the bonnie braes of Richmond another new lawyer to town. This old colonial

Revolutionary town, more lately the home of Mrs. Stonewall Jackson and Zebulon B. Vance, was to make upon him an impression no less profound than the life and ways of his people of the Sandhills. This town, which once nestled cozily in the lower hills of the central Piedmont, was feeling the dynamic impact of the Southern industrial revolution with all its values, opportunities, dislocations and damages. The people had already become astir with projects of community expansion and regional advance, impelled by the industrial leadership of D. A. Tomkins, Oates, C. W. Johnson, Hiss, Morehead, Tanner, Chadwick, Draper, the Liddells, Wilkes, Cramer, the Dowds and others; the building programs of E. D. Latta, McDowell, Lenoir Chambers and others of the Four Cs, Jack Myers, George Stephens and others; the financial enterprises of the Springs, Heaths, Wittkowsky, Spencers, Brenizer, Dunn, Scott, Wood, McAdens, Little, Wilkinson, Cutter, H. M. Victor and others; and far-flung merchandising enterprises of the Belks, the Efirds and Iveys. The enterprise of Wylie for harnessing the rivers on their wasted ways to the sea were enlarged in the stupendous undertakings of J. B. Duke, aided by W. S. Lee, E. C. Marshall, Norman Cocke, W. P. Few, W. S. Rankin, Ben Geer and others, for the electrical, industrial, educational, medical and spiritual developments in the two Carolinas.

Unnamed here, though not unremembered, but much revered and loved, were a legion of ministers, teachers, physicians, business and civic leaders, bearers of daily burdens, men and women, makers of homes, creators of light, freedom, civic morale and the spiritual and cultural life of the community whose dynamic elan became part of the spiritual stuff of the democratic convictions, the social motive force and personal drive of Cameron Morrison. In his church he heard his minister, Dr. A. A. McGeachy, preach a social gospel as well as personal evangelism.

Leaders of vision, drive and will to power, who made big investments for the future and mastered abundant resources for vast enterprises, stirred the will for achievement and the imagination of the bold horseman, the veteran political campaigner, the rising legal contender from the Sandhills. Into the midst of such men, scenes and events, with their reciprocal interplay of constructive imagination, relentless will and current investments for vaster values, had come the colorful, rugged, forthright, impulsive, emotionally human and

lovable, politically popular and always valorous, Cameron Morrison. He came at a time when Charlotte, the county seat of historic Mecklenburg, was on its way to becoming the metropolis of the Old North State, the merchandising pivot of the two Carolinas, the rail and road juncture of the Piedmont, the financial center of a rising textile empire, and the administrative capital of the expanding electrical dominions—the beautiful Queen City of the South.

In his memory may I express the wish that neither Charlotte nor North Carolina will lose the imagination, the drive, the humane spirit of freedom and equal opportunity for all people, sometimes submerged but always the resources of the finest hours in the progress of a great people.

His Life Span from Vance to Umstead

In his lifetime Cameron Morrison spanned the period from Vance, with his emphasis on the duties of defeat and recovery, to the period of Umstead, who exemplified faithfully the duties of public office. He came into the state's public arena on horseback, neither asking nor giving quarter in the political campaigns of the Sandhills. He entered the hazardous political lists, red-shirted and hard-riding, with his lance raised for what he deeply felt was the redemption of the State from the political bitterness, racial antagonisms, confusions and fears of the times.

He belonged, with their changing emphases, to three post-bellum periods. As lawyer, campaigner, Governor, Senator, Congressman and agricultural leader, he bridged the aftermath of the Civil War, which was continental in its effects, and the aftermath of two world wars, which were global in their revolutionary consequences. A militant fighter from period to period, he grew in human sympathies and social wisdom.

Daniels, Simmons, Morrison and Their Peers Prepare the Way for Aycock

He was one of the foremost leaders, who, in their different and sometimes opposed ways in the common cause, had valiant parts in widening the democratic meaning of the transition from the nineteenth to the twentieth century. F. M. Simmons was the astute manager

and organizer of political victory. The Kitchins led a district, then the state and then the Congress. Josephus Daniels was the militant editor, the insurgent but always loyal Democrat and tribune of the people in the state and nation, who wrought a fusion of the Bryan and Wilson forces, led the Navy to victory under Wilson, and became the chief exemplar of the unity of the three Americas under Roosevelt. Locke Craig—the "little giant", son of the county of Bertie, the college mate at Chapel Hill of the leaders of the educational awakening in North Carolina and the South, Aycock, Alderman, McIver, Noble, Pell and Joyner, and the successor to Swain and Vance as the authentic voice of the mountain people—made common cause with Aycock, Daniels, Simmons and Morrison. Robert B. Glenn of Forsythe, leader with Daniels, Clarkson and Morrison of the prohibition forces, campaigned with fervor for Aycock and Turner. Cameron Morrison, the robust rider of the Sandhills, became a most effective campaigner, deep-toned in his rousing clarion calls to the people from stumps and platforms all over North Carolina. These leaders, their peers and other devoted campaigners, in towns and country, prepared the way for Charles B. Aycock and his leadership of a new day in our state.

To understand Morrison's part in the Renaissance led by Aycock, we must see, in the perspective of the times, his growth as a contributing part of the new era of the risen South. Born in 1869, he was a child of the Reconstruction era. To understand the unfolding but decisive meaning of Aycock, Daniels and Morrison and their cohorts in the upward struggle, we must recall that the first public impressions upon their plastic lives was made by the largely misconceived and sometimes vindictive "Reconstruction" regime, its disfranchisement of the ex-Confederate whites, the premature enfranchisement of the illiterate and exploited ex-slaves, its local corruption and widespread misrule under the cover of a victorious army of occupation.

Reaction, Revolt and Counter-Uprising

The withdrawal of the Union army in 1877 was followed by a general return to power of the former Southern leaders. The bayonets departed and the ballots returned to the Southern people. However, the reactionary policies of some Southern leaders and the increasing hard

times led to the revolt of the hard-pressed farmers and disinherited people. In the eighteen nineties, as part of the Agrarian and Populist Revolt, the Populist Party and the Republican Party, inclusive of the Negro voters, fused their strength and took over the State. Richmond County, like many other counties, went decisively Republican. At the very time that the way of political advancement appeared to be with the Republican-Populist combination, young Morrison, who had had some filial leanings toward the Republican Party, made a complete break. He cast his first vote for the Democratic Party, which he served with an unbreakable devotion to the end of his days. Against the heavy odds of the times he was the war-horse of the resurgent Democratic Party. He struck heavy blows east and west with a resounding eloquence and personal bravery in hazardous times. He became one of the most relentless leaders of the popular uprising which overthrew the Fusionist regime, and, by constitutional amendment, for a time disfranchised the Negro by "the grandfather clause" and kept the white voters enfranchised by that device. Aycock went into office in January 1901 on a political tidal wave.

The Moral Dilemma of Democracy: the Answer of Aycock and the Answer of Morrison

A great moral question confronted the people of North Carolina and their most popular governor. Would Aycock lead the way of the people for continued disfranchisement of the Negro people? Or would he use his popularity, his eloquence and the power of his victory so that the period of the disfranchisement and subordination of the ex-Confederate whites, with all its wrongs, and the period of counter-disfranchisement and intimidation of the Negroes, with all its wrongs, would provide the lessons for the development of a transition to the fairer hopes of a new day of inter-racial co-operation, equal suffrage and equal educational opportunity for all the children of North Carolina.

Aycock had promised on hundreds of platforms, east and west, that the equal educational opportunity of all children would be the chief goal of his administration. He had pledged that the literacy test after 1908 would provide the same basis for the equal suffrage of both races. Political plans were being proposed that the literacy test should be kept for the Negroes and eliminated for the whites after the

appointed date and that taxes of the two races should be separated and apportioned respectively to the separate schools. When these plans were presented to Aycock he indignantly replied that if such a plan was adopted he would resign as Governor in protest against such a betrayal of himself and such dishonor of the people. In the moral heights of that decision it may be emphasized that when Aycock became the leader of North Carolina, North Carolina became the leader of the risen South, advancing through the reciprocal values of agriculture, industrialization, education and co-operation. While some states tended to go another way with Blease, Bilbo and Talmadge, yet in the fifty years of the succession of our able Governors after Aycock, with varying degrees of achievements and frustrations in their distinctive contributions to the advance of North Carolina, all have taken the higher road with Aycock. North Carolina has passed beyond the days of the white robes of "reconstruction" days, the red shirts of the eighteen nineties, the grandfather clause in 1908, and the poll tax in 1921. Lynching has long disappeared, public school terms and teachers' salaries have been equalized on the same basis, and in some communities Negroes have been appointed to the police force and school boards or nominated for town councils in what were once white primaries and sometimes led the ticket by a majority of white voters. No Governor in that half-century has felt more deeply the sense of the obligation of honor to carry forward the spirit of Aycock than Cameron Morrison, his comrade-in-arms on many fields of political battle.

However strong was his conception of the wisest approach to the problem of the races, and however deep would have been his dis agreement with the recent decision of the Supreme Court, yet his way would, in my opinion, be neither the abolition of the public schools nor disobedience of the law of the land. The progressively unfolding spirit of Jefferson and Aycock, his two major prophets of democracy, would not, in the mid-twentieth century, be the way of nullification of the law but the way of the co-operation of the races with calmness and good faith in wise stages and procedures in obedience to law under the constitution as interpreted by the courts, the very bulwark of our historic liberties and the humane hope of an advancing democracy in a world imperiled by totalitarian tyranny, fear and hate.

Morrison's Program and Struggles

The torch, taken from Aycock by Morrison, was not only to be held aloft in honor, but was to be carried forward in new struggles for roads, schools, colleges, humane institutions and the development of the resources of the people. For the struggles ahead he had the unusual combination of a robust body, a vigorous mind, the political insight of a county chairman, state Senator, the friendship and confidence of the state party organization and the statewide experience and contacts of the leadership of a victorious uprising of the people. He had the enthusiastic support of such party stalwarts as Charles A. Webb, J. W. Bailey, Col. J. D. Langston, W. N. Everett, W. C. Dowd, R. W. H. Stone, J. Bayard Clark, W. J. Brogden, I. W. Faison, G. C. White, W. F. Evans, J. F. McMahon, J. F. Barrett, Will Weill, J. A. Lockhart, and other leaders of influence in all parts of the state. All this was required for him to win in that memorable primary in which he and Max Gardner eliminated Robert N. Page, one of the remarkable Page brothers and veteran Congressman who had once defeated Morrison for Congress among his own people. In the first primary Morrison had a plurality of only 87 votes and in the second primary a majority of a scant 9259 over O. Max Gardner. This victory is famous in political annals with its statewide reverberations and as the only defeat ever suffered by Gardner. O. Max Gardner was a most popular alumnus of both State College and the University, a famous football player, the champion of woman suffrage, idol and leader of the younger Democrats, and one of the influential Webb-Gardner-Hoey-Mull group of Shelby. The battle of the giants continued when in the general election Morrison defeated John J. Parker, first honor man of his University class, then on the rise in the national service, now senior federal judge, respected for his character, learning and contribution to the law at home and abroad. Josephus Daniels, O. Max Gardner, John J. Parker and Cameron Morrison, among others, became, in their several ways, fighting friends and effective champions of the consolidated University of North Carolina, its responsible freedom and growth in the teaching of youth, the finding and publication of truth and the enlarging of its services to all the people.

Which Way Morrison: Which Way North Carolina?

This was the calibre of the man, with such a momentum of experiences, friendships, contests and loyalties proven in the people's causes, who became Governor of North Carolina in January, 1921. On which side would he throw the weight of his vivid personality, his political popularity and his boldness in leadership? Which way North Carolina in crucial years was somewhat to be determined by which way Cameron Morrison in 1921. On one side were the ever present inertia of the *status quo,* the indifference and complacency of many people, the predisposition of some political organizations toward safety and expediency, the pressures of local, particular and present interests above the state-wide, long-run general view, and the organized special interest of intrenched political organization and concentrated financial power. On this side was also the muster of some sectarian opposition to state supported colleges, though receding in its appeal, yet was cleverly expressed in the *non de plume* articles of Peter Plain.

On the other side were two movements: the good roads movements and the youth movement, which inter-locking in their reciprocally gathering power, could, with courageous leadership, become a movement of the people. On that side, were also many of the state's industrial, agricultural, commercial, professional and civic leaders of larger vision, challenged by the very sweep of the Morrison program for the development of a more productive and nobler state.

Joined by his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. James J. Harris, he once asked me, one of his helpers in the non-partisan educational movement, to tell some of the forgotten parts of his leadership of the youth movement as a chapter in his story and to make clear with facts that he was much more than a mighty builder of good roads. These facts and events will indicate the organic relation between Morrison's decisive leadership, the people's University, the state institutions and public agencies, and the democratic and reciprocal development of the youth movement and the good roads movement into a non-partisan uprising of the people for a fairer, more productive and hopeful commonwealth. Merely to call the roll of leaders and volunteers in that movement of youth, which became a crusade of the people, would involve a muster beyond the time of this occasion. Some day, perhaps, it should be done, but not now, except to emphasize by a few illustrations of how a youth movement for the

schools, colleges and humane institutions became a part of the people's movement and that the valiant and relentless leadership of Cameron Morrison was always in the forefront and, at critical junctures, decisive for victory rather than defeat for the people and the future of North Carolina.

By the fall of 1920, despite a state bond issue of $3,000,000 for state institutions, successfully proposed by E. K. Graham in 1918, and successfully championed by Lindsay Warren, Walter Murphy, W. N. Everett, James A. Gray, George Holderness, Clem Wright, and others, the colleges and humanitarian institutions were carrying accumulated loads which over-taxed their heavily congested buildings and inadequately supported staffs. The high schools, multiplying since Aycock's days, were sending increasing legions of graduates to knock at the doors of all the over-crowded state, church and private colleges. The churches had raised for their institutions large funds in movements led in many cases by sons of the University. The rising population of the state and the mounting tensions of modern life were dangerously over-crowding the state's asylums and humane institutions. Students at the University were living three and four in rooms meant for two, and in attics, basements, garages and on back porches. Students by the thousands were crowded in, and by the hundreds crowded out of the colleges.

The Youth Movement Became the People's Crusade

In a meeting of President Chase, Business Manager Woollen, Dr. L. R. Wilson, Lenoir Chambers, Jr., E. R. Rankin, and other members of the Alumni Review Board, the critical situation of the University was considered. Challenged by an SOS call to fifty younger alumni of the institution, with an organizing central chairman and treasurer, it was decided to organize a state-wide alumni movement into a state-wide people's movement. Forty-three alumni leaders out of the fifty, called on sudden notice, came to Chapel Hill. At a meeting presided over by W. S. Bernard, President H. W. Chase, Business Manager C. T. Woollen, and the Alumni Review Board presented in a clean cut way the facts and figures of the situation. On the basis of the situation a call was sounded for those present as follows: "that a group smaller than those present, with facts no less urgent and a cause no less compelling, could change the course of the people's life; that the recent

revaluation of property in North Carolina would have richer meaning by a revaluation of youth to North Carolina; that education denied was youth betrayed; that, with the line boldly drawn between the exemption of wealth and the redemption of youth, the people would vote for youth; that the crisis demanded the presentation of the facts as part of a crusade of the people for youth and the commonwealth; that no less sacred than the medieval crusade of the people in war to capture the Holy Land would be a crusade of the people in peace to capture a new holy land for the higher and more equal opportunity of the thousands of young people knocking at the doors which the colleges should open to them and "forbid them not for their's is the Kingdom of Heaven."

A multi-point program for presentation of the situation to the people and the organization of the people, set forth in a resolution proposed by Kenneth Royall and Lennox P. McLendon, was enthusiastically adopted about one o'clock in the morning. The Gideon's band of forty-three dedicated people went forth for the non-partisan enlistment of the people in the cause of youth and the future. E. R. Rankin became the treasurer and Miss Bessie Merritt the secretary of the central chairman.

In greensboro, the alumni, called together by one of the forty-three, President Fred Archer, on October 11, 1920, in their declaration and organization for a people's crusade, soon made common cause with the Chamber of Commerce and civic organizations and raised a large fund. Sam Dickson's report of this meeting in the *Greensboro News* was itself a challenge for statewide action. The Charles L. Weill Guilford Committee of the Alumni, appointed by President Elect, H. B. Gunter, and composed of Charlie Weill, W. Sam Dickson, Capus P. Waywick, M. Robins, E. B. Jeffress and C. R. Wharton, soon became the Alfred M. Scales Statewide Committee of Citizens, generously contributed to, among others, by Clem Wright, E. Sternberger, A. M. Scales, Smith Richardson, R. G. Vaughan, J. E. Latham, Mrs. R. J. Reynolds and John Sprunt Hill, who was also a dynamic leader in the good roads movement. At a later meeting on November 12th, held at North Carolina College for Women in Greensboro, Governor T. W. Bickett, Chairman Ireland, of the Chamber of Commerce, Presidents Foust and Rondthaler, made eloquent calls to the people of North Carolina.

At an earlier time in another kick-off meeting in Hillsboro on October 12th, the Alumni, gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Webb, led by a committee composed of Cheshire and Norflet Webb, Major J. W. Graham, Sam Gattis, Paul Collins and W. A. Heartt, raised a fund for the office of the Central Chairman and Treasurer, and sent an urgent telegram to 3500 selected leaders for emergency action in behalf of more buildings and more adequate annual support.

A few examples of the many meetings are here given, representative of the East, Piedmont and West public rallies were held in the courthouse of Wake, where R. B. House, J. H. Boushall, O. J. Coffin (whose forthright editorials were soon to clear the way), Joseph Cheshire, President Riddick, H. M. London, C. V. York, Miss Elizabeth Kelly, and others promoted the cause, and in the courthouse of New Hanover, where C. C. Covington, W. P. Stacy, J. G. Murphy, Marsden Bellamy, I. C. Wright, J. O. Carr, Milton Calder, H. M. Solomon and others sponsored a quickly planned assembly addressed by Prof. Branson of Chapel Hill, Prof. Withers of the State College, Miss Laura Coit of the North Carolina College, Prof. Wilson of the East Carolina Training School and others.

In the first Baptist Church of Charlotte, a large mass meeting of citizens was organized by Rev. W. A. Jenkins of the Methodist Church, B. S. Drane, John, Duncan and Charlie Tillett, H. P. Harding, S. B. Alexander, Jr., F. O. Clarkson, David Clark, Word Wood, Mrs. John C. Kilgo, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Shore, A. J. Draper, J. B. Efird, C. O. Kuester, John R. Purser, M. R. Dunnagan and others. After addresses by Dr. C. Alphonso Smith, Vice-President Withers of the N. C. A. & E. College, Col. Kirkpatrick and others, the meeting enthusiastically endorsed the whole program and raised a substantial fund for putting broadside advertisements in the county newspapers of the state.

At Lenoir under the spur of Horace Sisk and T. E. Story resolutions for the twenty millions for institutions was joined with fifty million dollars for roads and at Oxford the twenty millions for State institutions was joined by Guy Phillips and Ben Lassiter with seventy-five thousand for the local high school. Both resolutions went through with a bang.

The Scales-Gunter-Weill-Dickson-Jeffress-Wharton-Waynick-Robins group in Guilford put a whole page advertisement in thirty-four papers, with facts and figures about the desperate plight of the state

institutions, which was probably read by more than a million readers the same morning. This was followed a week later by a half-page advertisement in the thirty-four dailies, made graphic with the Branson-Dickson-Scales analysis of North Carolina's wealth and ability to carry on a great state program.

Lindsay Warren raised the standard near the Pamlico Sound. Frank Winslow and Kemp Battle organized a whole town. Foy Roberson was the organizing center of Durham and J. Cheshire Webb, of Orange. One Charlotte fighting unit of which C. W. Tillett, Jr., was chairman, composed of F. O. Clarkson, Mrs .C. C. Hook, and Mrs. Joseph Garibaldi, reached 882 councils and clubs representing a membership of about 60,000 citizens in the towns and countrysides of North Carolina. The Gwynn-Dalton-Smith-Hodges group held meetings in four towns of one county and were backed by every civic organization in the county.

C. F. Harvey, J. Elmer Long, N. A. Townsend, I. C. Wright, J. W. Pless, Jr., G. D. Vick, J. W. Hester, Wilson Warlick, L. F. Abernethy, Burton Craige, N. E. Day, C. R. Wharton, D. Z. Newton, D. Elias, L. S. Holt, Allen Mebane, N. Gooding, H. B. Stevens, C. E. McIntosh, C. A. Boseman, G. Phillips, L. Shields, W. L. Small, K. Gant, W. Warlick, W. Davis, M. R. Dunnagan, G. D. Vick, J. W. Maness, Haywood Parker, R. E. Price, E. R. Oettinger, Ben Royal, E. W. S. Cobb, C. Whedbee, M. L. Wright, D. S. Thompson, V. S. Bryant, J. K. Wilson, J. R. Nixon, R. S. McNeill, G. S. Singletary, T. H. Battle, J. C. M. Vann, F. Love, K. Royall, T. O'Berry, Vogler, J. J. Parker, W. B. Love, K. S. Tanner, A. M. Simmons, P. Dickson, F. B. Rankin, S. H. Farabee, Fred May, J. H. Boushall, D. B. Teague, T. W. Fuffin, B. L. Banks, L. I. Moore, W. Dunn, Jr., J. S. White, Leslie Weil, Robert Lassiter, S. F. Teague, Dr. O. B. Ross, Julian H. Little, Stuart W. Cramer, Thos. O'Berry, Gen. J. S. Carr, Claude Teague, A. B. Andrews, Jas. G. Hanes, Dr. R. H. Lewis, Junius Parker, L. S. Holt, Jr., R. L. Patterson, Geo. S. Steele, the Cones, R. L. Strowd, Wallace Strowd, B. K. Lassiter, G. G. Battle, W. S. Roberson, C. D. Snell, Lionel Weil, Herman Weil, A. Alex Shuford, Joe A. Parker, A. H. Edgerton, Dr. J. G. Murphy, R. G. Stockton, G. Allen Mebane, R. H. Lewis, Jr., H. G. Wood, and hundreds of other key men and women in strategic centers of personal influence and consolidated group activity linked the aroused opinion of the people to the cause of congested youth in the colleges.

Forty-seven meetings were held in strategic cities and towns in Eastern North Carolina, the Piedmont and the Mountain West. Each of the forty-seven meetings is a story in itself, giving momentum to the people's movement rolling on in gathering power from the top of Watauga to the mouth of the Neuse. Most of the counties had committees not listed here but who faithfully followed through to the end. As a follow-up, for example, in Lenoir County, a county-wide committee of thirty minute men and women, organized by Eli Perry, kept alert the interest and action of citizens and groups throughout the fall, winter and spring.

The State Federation of Women's Clubs led by Mrs. Charles C. Hook and Miss Mary Petty, the State Congress of Parents and Teachers led by Mrs. Joseph Garibaldi, Mrs. W. H. Swift, Mrs. David Yates and Mrs. A. B. Justice, the chapters of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics stimulated by State Councillor Cobb and F. O. Clarkson all over the state, 5300 Scottish Rite Masons throughout the state, led by Thomas J. Harkins of Asheville, Chambers of Commerce, Rotary, Kiwanis, the American Legion, ministers, teachers, business, professional, agricultural and labor leaders—all these emphasized the meaning of the program to all of the people. Mrs. Mary Mendenhall Hobbs of Guilford College, Mrs. C. R. Wharton of the Flora MacDonald College Alumnae, Mrs. Palmer Jerman and Miss Gertrude Weill, made ringing statements for the whole program. Mrs. David Yates, though under sentence of a fatal sickness, gave the utmost of her brave spirit and dedicated energies to the cause. Raymond Chatham, in a county without an organized county-wide committee, became a one-man committee at work all over his county.

The several Alumni and Alumnae Presidents, R. D. W. Connor, of U.N.C.; C. V. York, of N. C. State; Laura Coit, of N.C.C.W.; and Josie Dorset, of E.C.T.C., and the several alumni and alumnae publications edited by L. R. Wilson, Lenoir Chambers, E. R. Rankin, Ethel Bollinger, Mabel Stamper, and others, kept interest lively with facts and the reports of developments. Students in the state institutions, led by John Kerr, Tyre Taylor, B. C. Brown, W. R. Berryhill, W. H. Bobbitt, Phillip Hettleman, R. L. Thompson and Dan Grant, established liaison committees and, during the Christmas Holidays, carried to their families and neighbors in many thousands of homes the story

of the needs of their institutions. A faculty committee on publicity composed of the Central Chairman, the Editors, Wilson, Chambers, Rankin, Bernard, Branson, Patterson, Noble, Carroll, Bradshaw and Knight, reached the people with facts and figures in the daily news columns, the weekly *News Letter* and the monthly *Review*. Paul Whitlock, Morrison's personal representative, made a survey of the crowded conditions at the University, as the example and center of the situation, reported the conditions desperate and the need for more buildings and larger annual support imperative.

It is appropriate in this presence for special mention to select from the unnamed thousands of leaders and volunteers in the people's movement, accumulating democratic strength from the mountains to the sea, the names of two members of the Rockingham County local committee, who organized the mass meeting of citizens in the Court House at Wentworth, typical of the many thousands in other counties who enlisted their influence, enthusiasm and energy in the statewide muster of the people for youth and the commonwealth. By way of illustration, two of the dynamos, along with Rev. W. J. Gordon, M. T. Smith, Price Gwynn, J. E. Holmes, W. R. Dalton, and others in their county, generating the currents which were transmitted throughout Rockingham County, were a young businessman on the rise to be national vice-president of the gigantic Marshall Field Company, named Luther Hodges, now our Governor, and a charming young high school teacher of history, then named Martha Blakeney, now the first lady of North Carolina.

For the public hearings before the Joint Committees of the General Assembly came large delegations representing all sections of the state and all groups of the people. Joining them were hundreds of interested citizens who came by train, bus and automobile. Speaking urgently to the committees on behalf of the six-year $20,000,000 building program for the State's educational and humanitarian institutions and for more adequate annual support were, A. M. Scales, of Greensboro, T. J. Harkins and R. R. Williams of Asheville, J. J. Wells of Burlington, C. B. Riddle, Mrs. W. H. Swift, Dorman Thompson of Statesville, President Howard Ronthaler of Salem, President Hobgood of Oxford, Walter Small of Elizabeth City and C. C. Covington of Wilmington. More thousands of telegrams, letters and petitions poured into Raleigh.

Morrison's Decisive Leadership

The state would soon know whether any forces marshalled by whatever powers, seen and unseen, could defeat a movement of thousands of such volunteers in such a cause under such a leader as Cameron Morrison. With his direction the state was to take its course at a critical tide in the affairs of the people. Without Morrison's leadership the movement would probably have floundered in diffusion against the concentrated combination of economic and political power. With his leadership the movement would have both focus at the top and the concentrated power of an aroused people.

With the momentum of the people's movement and the courage of his fighting heart, Governor Morrison carried the fight to administrations, trustees and legislators. Some of them would, in their wisdom or reaction or caution, draw back because they thought the unprecedented size of the plan would blow up in their faces to the damage of the institutions and the party in power. However, the non-partisan basis of the program was revealed clearly in the non-political, civic and humane enlistment of leaders and citizens of all parties, and dramatized in the fighting of Charles A. Jonas, shoulder to shoulder with Walter Murphy, Frank Taylor, W. R. Dalton, and others, behind the Governor in the Board of Trustees, followed by the enthusiastic support of the Republicans in the Legislature. In support of a motion of Major John W. Graham, the Governor appointed Claudius Dockery, J. B. Grimes and J. S. Manning as the trustees committee to reenforce President Chase in the legislative hearings. Some powerful political and financial interests balked, brought pressure on institutions, and sought to slow down the movement when they realized that Morrison really meant to carry through the whole enterprise which to them then appeared more fantastic and impossible as it became more possible and real through the support of the people and the leadership of the Governor.

In the General Assembly, we recall today, among many gallant fighters, Walter Murphy of Rowan in the House and W. L. Long of Halifax, President-Pro-Tem of the Senate, who, in their different but effective ways, wisely, brilliantly and eloquently helped the Governor to carry the Murphy-Long-Everett-Doughton-Varser-McCoin Bill and the implied commitment for the whole program which was approximately put through in six years.

The whole program was supported by the newspapers of the State, exemplified by the steadfast support of Wade H. Harris and Winston Adams in the *Charlotte Observer* and the brilliant editorials of Earl Godbey, Gerald Johnson and Ed Jeffrees in the *Greensboro News*. The consensus of the press was well summarized by Josephus Daniels in the *News and Observer* substantially as follows: in the face of reaction and the hard times, the Legislature of 1921 "seized the hour of decision with the masterful faith of the people in heroic mood" and voted to build 5500 miles of hard surfaced roads, a greater public school system and university, more adequate woman's college, agricultural and engineering colleges, teacher training colleges, hospitals, asylums, and schools for the unfortunate.

Durable and Far Ranging Values of the Morrison Program

Representative examples of the values of the Morrison program shine far from the towers and halls at Chapel Hill, the State College in Raleigh, the Woman's College in Greensboro, and the other state institutions at Boone, Cullowhee, Winston-Salem, Fayetteville, Durham, Greensboro, Elizabeth City, Concord, Greenville, Gastonia, Morganton, Goldsboro, Kinston and Samarcand. The first university to open its doors as a university of the people, which in 1860 had become, under Swain the largest in the ante-bellum South and the second largest in the nation, was stricken down in the aftermath of the Civil War. From the love and influence of a brave woman, Cornelia Phillips Spencer, it was reopened after the collapse of the "Reconstruction" regime and moved upward again under the wise Kemp P. Battle, the brilliant George T. Winston, the eloquent Edwin A. Alderman, the scientific Francis P. Venable, and the prophetic Edward K. Graham, who extended the campus to the commonwealth with the return of a hundred-fold in the support of the people. The fourteen new buildings and the more than doubled annual appropriation, resulting from the people's movement led by Governor Morrison, provided the opportunity for the wise leadership of President Harry W. Chase, ably aided by Controller Woollen and a strong faculty, to guide the University farther on its historic road toward the forefront of American universities. The six-year program likewise provided the opportunity for the distinguished and devoted Presidents J. I. Foust, W. C. Riddick, E. C. Brooks, Robert H. Wright, B. B. Daugherty, R. L. Madison, H. T. Hunter, James E. Shepherd, Dudley, and others, to advance the

state's colleges to wider service and higher distinction in the state and nation. The insane, crowded even in the jails, were to find homes in the state's asylums.

Morrison's vision of a great state university and medical center had a reenforcing influence on James B. Duke, whose imagination and will for great undertakings had also stirred the mind and will of Cameron Morrison. The large views of Morrison and Duke's gigantic benefactions to hospitals and churches, to Davidson College, to Furman University and to Duke University, as a rising national university and medical center, no doubt gave impetus to the Bowman Gray-Reynolds benefactions for a great university and medical center to be built around Wake Forest College in Winston-Salem. All these today, with the teamwork of the state, the churches, private foundations, farms, factories, stores, banks, newspapers, the professions, colleges, schools, libraries, laboratories, hospitals, art galleries, theatres, radio, television and modern facilities of travel, communication and trade, can, in the great adventure of creative co-operation, make North Carolina the welcome home of one of the great agricultural, industrial, educational, medical, cultural and spiritual developments of our time.

The Road Battle

Regarding the battle over the road program, Hiden Ramsey, with his historical memory, has not only reminded me of the pressures of some local interests in 1921 for the State to take over the local debts for local roads and to make the program mainly an extension of the local systems, but also he has reminded me of the insistent fear in those days in many quarters that the gasoline tax on the then comparatively few automobiles would not carry the big road program. The Governor contended, if I may paraphrase him, that the hard surfaced roads would multiply the number of cars and pay their way; eliminate the terrible dust and get the people out of the mud, county seat to county seat; recover lost provinces beyond the wide Chowan and "back of beyond" the coves where live the pioneer people of the majestic mountains of North Carolina—all to be tied together in the travel and trade of the people in the brotherhood of that large family called North Carolina. W. A. McGirt, President, Miss Hattie Berry, Secretary, Benehan Cameron, Dr. L. B. Morse, Charles Whedbee, H. D.

Williams, T. L. Gwyn, W. C. Boren, L. B. Morse, Heriot Clarkson, John Sprunt Hill and others, were the spark plugs in the North Carolina Good Roads Association.

At a critical juncture in the battle over the size of the road bill, pressure was put on the Governor, with financial fear and political heat, that the largeness of the enterprise would bankrupt the state and ruin the Democratic Party. Through the liaison of a Democratic mountain friend of the Governor, President B. B. Daugherty of Appalachian, and with encouragement by State Republican Chairman, Frank Linney, and some other Republican supporters of a statewide program that would more surely include their beloved mountain region, J. C. McBee and other Republican leaders in the Legislature raised the Governor's figures and introduced a bill for a $75,000,000 bond issue. After this sensational news hit the headlines, some of the recently more fearful Democratic leaders in the Legislature rushed to the Governor to tell him that he was not as big a political fool as they had thought he was. They urged him not to let the Republicans steal his thunder and run off with the Democratic program. So a big program, inaugurated and championed by an enthusiastic Governor, went through with a bang for the Connor-Doughton-Bowie Bill for $50,000,000 for self-liquidating bonds, later increased to $65,000,000, to be issued by a great state on the way to becoming a greater commonwealth.

One of the witnesses from the legislative galleries of the scenes of battle was often his little daughter, Angelia, only child of his beloved deceased first wife, the former gracious Lottie May Tomlinson of Durham, who had devotedly shared his struggles and his hopes. Angelia, to whom he had become both a father and a mother, was the solace of his grief and the warmth and joy of his fighting heart. With a filial spark of the partisan fighter she ran to his office to give him the news from the fighting front, as later quoted by Burke Davis in the Charlotte News: "We have just voted for something, I don't know what but our side beat the daylights out of 'em."

Other Battles

In these memorable battles the state property tax was abolished and the income tax was significantly raised. The amendment for the repeal of the poll tax, which had been proposed and eloquently urged

by Governor T. W. Bickett, and ably supported in the legislature of 1920 by Rufus Doughton, Victor S. Bryant, George V. Cowper, and James A. Gray, Jr., was adopted in Morrison's administration. The 1923 Equalization Act for larger state support of the public schools, sponsored by State Superintendent E. C. Brooks, was adopted in Morrison's administration.

The only part of his program which went down to defeat was his proposal for the development of seaport terminals and water commerce. The lack of an organized people's movement for this later proposed part of his program, and the cries of "socialism" hurled by oposing interests at him, did not dismay him as he went down fighting for the port terminals. The Ship and Transportation Commission appointed by Governor Morrison, composed of R. M. Miller, Chairman; D. D. Carroll, Secretary; E. H. Bellamy, J. A. Brown, W. A. Hart, J. Y. Joyner, A. M. Scales, Charles E. Waddell and Charles S. Wallace, made a report and recommendation for Port Terminals, remniscent of Governor Morehead's great program, which came to larger life in another go-forward program under Governor Scott, who said he drew much of his inspiration from Cameron Morrison. The State Highway Commission, composed of Frank Page, Chairman; J. Elwood Cox, A. S. Hanes, W. A. Hart, J. S. Hill, A. M. Kistler, W. A. McGirt, J. G. Stikeleather, C. R. Wheatley and W. C. Wilkinson, appointed by Governor Morrison, administered the $65,000,000 road program with integrity, economy and efficiency which won not only the universal support of the people of the State but also the admiration of the nation, and became an example for many states.

The debate between Governor Morrison and Treasurer B. R. Lacy, on one side, and A. J. Maxwell, long the State's Commissioner of Revenue, on the other side, made the people more budget conscious. The state policies, inaugurated by Morrison, made logical the state budget system introduced by his successor, Governor A. W. McLean, ably assisted by A. J. Maxwell, for the efficient administration of large enterprises and later contributed at the bottom of the depression to the emergency fiscal policies of Governor J. C. B. Ehringhaus to prevent the near destruction of the stricken schools and institutions of the common life. Morrison's earlier program later opened the way at the beginning of the depression for Gardner's dramatic and productive live-at-home program, the banking reforms, the consolidation of

the University, State College and the Woman's College into one threefold University of the people, and the other state reorganization policies of Governor O. Max Gardner, who was later cut down on the eve of high international service at the Court of St. James.

Following in their train came the statewide countrywide library policies and the state-federal building program of Governor Clyde R. Hoey; the local-state-federal, private and public cooperative hospital-medical care campaign and the state medical center, inaugurated with vision and valor by Governor J. M. Broughton (as a part of his manifold program) and decisively adopted and carried forward by Cherry, Scott, Umstead and Hodges; the school survey and vital fisheries research project of Cherry, generously aided by the Knapp Foundation; the "go-forward" policies of Governor Scott which included $200,000,000 for rural roads, large appropriations for agriculture, public schools, state institutions and the seaport terminals; and the school building and mental health policies of Umstead. All these are an unfolding part of the chain reaction which reaches from Aycock to Morrison to Hodges in this hour of the deliberations of this General Assembly for the increasing fulfillment of the equal opportunities and fairer hopes of a great people.

Amid the emergency needs of the colleges to provide for the flood of high school graduates, he literally cried with joy over the increases in the funds for the public schools. He made clear that in protecting life and property amid the hazards of industrial strife that troops must not be used to break a strike or destroy the rights of workers to organize and bargain collectively. He used the full authority of the state against lynchings and to protect the threatened equal rights of Negroes to work in the mica mines of the mountains, prophetic of the need of fair employment regardless of race, color or creed. His chief administrative arms—in public education, E. C. Brooks and A. T. Allen, whose way was prepared by Aycock and Joyner; in public health, Dr. W. S. Rankin, for whose coming the pioneering Doctors, R. H. Lewis, who became President of the North American Public Health Association, and E. J. Wood, Chairman of the State Board of Health, had pointed the way; in public welfare, the compent and valiant Mrs. Kate Burr Johnson, preceded by the able and social minded Roland Beasley; and in the public roads, the peerless administrator, Frank Page, for whom the trail was blazed by Joseph Holmes,

Joseph Hyde Pratt, Hattie M. Berry, H. B. Varner, Col. Benehan Cameron, Heriot Clarkson, Col. T. L. Kirkpatrick, and others—all were pioneers and builders in their generation for generations to come.

Agricultural Leader

At the end of his term he went back to Charlotte, not to retire, but for new adventures in pastures green with his dear wife, Sara, the widow of the lamented industrialist and generous philanthropist, George W. Watts of Durham. She shared with Governor Morrison a beautiful family life, large resources, generous benefactions and an agricultural project which was to become an experimental and developmental center for the state and region. Just ahead of the Nazi occupation of the Islands, Cameron Morrison brought from the Isles of Jersey to North Carolina one of the finest breed of Jerseys in the world. Their pure blood and rich values, along with his chickens, turkeys, hogs and fields of grain, vegetables and fruits, with the scientific and practical aid of the North Carolina State College, improved the breed of live stock, the standards of farming and the income of the rural people. His last were among his most productive years. He often emphasized that the work of the farm people produced the food and fibres for the sustenance, clothing and shelter of all people. Except for a brief interlude in the United State Senate, to which he was generously and proudly appointed by Governor Gardner, as successor to the popular Senator Lee S. Overman, he gave the enthusiasm of his last years to the Morrocroft farm. His defeat by the picturesque Robert R. Reynolds removed a political gladiator from the United States Senate.

His Last Days

The vivid and valorous nature of the old warrior is forever imprinted in the memory of this generation as we see him stand, hurt in his heart and unbowed in his spirit, defiantly facing a State Democratic Convention which howled him down because of his loyalty to Al Smith. We see him later in the midst of the tumultuous ovation in a State Convention, when he took the offensive in championship of Roosevelt and the New Deal and of Ehringhaus and his fiscal policies to save the people's schools. The people of the nation, regardless of faction and party, warmed to the sight of this fighting

man of more than four score years, in strenuous scenes past midnight, as he spoke for both the freedom and loyalty of Southern Democrats in the turbulent Chicago Convention. For the nominee of that Convention, the gallant and far-visioned Adlai Stevenson, he closed ranks and gave the unstinted support which Cameron Morrison had given to the Democratic Party for sixty years. In his long life span he worked and fought for the progress of his State with loyal affection, for the liberties and security of his country with warm patriotism and for the United Nations as the chief hope of freedom and peace in this divided and broken world.

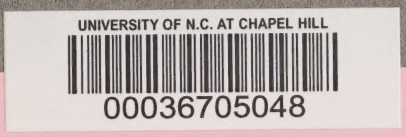
The biography of Morrison by his State Campaign Manager, Heriot Clarkson, the sketches and recollections of him by W. C. Dowd, Wade Harris, Paul C. Whitlock, H. C. Dockery, W. H. Richardson, his office assistant, who compiled his public papers, Margaret Willis, his personal secretary, Gilbert White, J. Van B. Metts, Archie McL. Graham, Charles M. Johnson, Tom Fesperman, Brock Barkley, Le Gette Blythe, Randolph Norton, H. E. C. Bryant, Sigsbee Miller, D. Hiden Ramsey, W. L. Long, J. H. McLain, D. L. Corbett, who edited his papers, R. H. House, C. C. Crittenden, H. T. Lefler, S. H. Hobbs, Isaac London, Dave McConnell, Claiborne Royall, Mrs. W. C. Leake, Miss Esdale Shaw, Graham Barden, Harold Cooley, C. B. Deane, R. L. Doughton, Carl Durham, Thurmond Chatham, John J. Parker, Alben Barkley, Jonathan Daniels, Sam Rayburn, and others, whether colleagues or opponents, all agree on his high sense of honor, reverence, generosity, party devotion, national patriotism and unfailing courage.

He passed away in Quebec in August, 1953, after an expedition to the Plains of Abraham with his devoted traveling companion and lively grandson, who spoke their words of cheer to the warrior of four score years and three as he passed on unafraid of the justice and worthy of the mercy of the Highest Court.

My last picture of him was in his home, a venerable and happy warrior, with a zest for life, friendship and conversation, in the midst of his family, books, fields, flocks, herds and the trees and flowers of Sharon. As the splendor of the dying sun fell across that summer scene, the historic memories and the immortal hopes of the evening of his life added something of unresting color and deathless fire to the glow and glory of the setting sun, which for him would rise again.

As citizen, churchman, lawyer, campaigner, precinct and county chairman, mayor, State Senator, Governor, U. S. Senator, Congressman, farmer, builder and pioneer, his sturdy face and living spirit will look down from these commemorative walls to remind the people that Cameron Morrison, forward in contest, generous in victory and gallant in defeat, held bravely aloft the banner of the people and led them forward with the vision, without which the people perish, and with which, under God, they struggle to the higher ground of the more equal freedom and fairer opportunity for themselves and all their children.

Frank P. Graham



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